

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 06331 071113Z
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 /019 W
-----119822 071146Z /47

R 070329Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9425

UNCLAS KABUL 6331

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BENC, AF, RP, AF, IR
SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: KANDAHAR CEMENT PLANT

REF: STATE 197664

1. EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT AFGHAN GOVERNMENT HAS HELD TALKS WITH ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK CONCERNING FINANCING FOR KANDAHAR CEMENT PLANT. ROBERT BYRNES, OPERATION MANAGER FOR ADB, TOLD US IN FEBRUARY 1978 (KABUL 1493) THAT ADB HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO FUND THE PROJECT, BUT THAT HE DOUBTED THAT ADB WOULD GO ABOVE A \$20 MILLION LOAN. (PROJECT IS ESTIMATED AT ABOUT \$50 MILLION.) ON A RETURN VISIT IN JUNE, BYRNES TOLD US THAT THE ADB IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO PARTIAL FINANCING OF KANDAHAR CEMENT, BUT WITH A CAPACITY OF 1,000 TONS A DAY RATHER THAN THE 1,600 TONS PER DAY ORIGINALLY ENVISIONED. IN A CALL ON THE MINISTER OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES ON JULY 29 (KABUL 6156), THE AMBASSADOR BROUGHT UP THE KANDAHAR CEMENT PLANT, AND THE MINISTER, WITHOUT REFERRING TO ADB, MENTIONED THE NEED FOR FINANCING IF THE PROJECT IS TO BE REALIZED. EMBASSY DISCUSSIONS WITH WORKING LEVEL MINISTRY OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT CEMENT PRODUCTION IS A HIGH PRIORITY FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN, BUT THAT THE PRIORITY OF KANDAHAR CEMENT IS SECONDARY TO THE COMPLETION OF A CZECH-FINANCED CEMENT PLANT IN HERAT AND THE
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EXPANSION AND MODERNIZATION OF THE EXISTING GHORI CEMENT PLANT.

2. WE WOULD ASSUME THAT THE ADB FACT-FINDING MISSION SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST IS THE FIRST OFFICIAL STEP OF ADB TOWARD EVENTUAL FINANCING OF THE PROJECT. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HERE, NEITHER ADB NOR THE

AFGHAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN THE PROCESS OF
SELECTING A CONSULTANT.
DUBS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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